

Attorney Docket: HATO.2109.0001
Application Serial No. 09/901,069

Remarks

Introduction

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that claims 3, 4, 7, and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. No new matter is being presented.

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,982,637 to Noguchi. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claims 1 and 5

The Office Action dated July 6, 2009 states that FIGS. 2, 4, 5, and 9A-9C of Noguchi disclose all the limitations as recited in independent claim 1. See pages 2-3, item 4 of the Office Action dated July 6, 2009.

More specifically, it appears that the Office Action dated July 6, 2009 relies on Noguchi's flexible cable 26 which connects to a top portion of operation panel 5 in order to move the operational panel 5 upwards and downwards. See column 6, lines 41-49 of Noguchi.

However, there is no element in Noguchi which reads on Applicant's "slide plate coupled at a first end to a base portion of the AV front panel to control a horizontal movement of the AV front panel," as presently recited in amended independent claim 1.

In fact, Noguchi intentionally does not include an element to correspond to Applicant's "slide plate coupled at a first end to a base portion of the AV front panel," since the operational panel 5 of Noguchi is designed to rotate 180 degrees. See FIGS. 4-6 of Noguchi. That is, inclusion of a "slide plate," as recited in independent claim 1, would not allow the operational panel 5 of Noguchi to rotate as intended.

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Therefore, not only does Noguchi not disclose or suggest “a slide plate coupled at a first end to a base portion of the AV front panel to control a horizontal movement of the AV front panel,” as presently recited in amended independent claim 1, but Noguchi also would teach away from including such a slide plate since inclusion of such a slide plate would destroy the purpose and functionality of Noguchi's operational plate 9.

Accordingly, Noguchi clearly does not disclose or suggest, among other things, “a slide plate coupled at a first end to a base portion of the AV front panel to control a horizontal movement of the AV front panel,” as presently recited in amended independent claim 1.

Furthermore, since similar amendments have been made to Applicant's independent claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that Noguchi also does not disclose or suggest, among other things, “a converting unit to control an angle of inclination of the AV front panel, such that a top portion of the AV front panel inclines toward the inclining unit, and comprising a slide plate coupled at a first end to a base portion of the AV front panel to control a horizontal movement of the AV front panel,” as presently recited in independent claim 5.

As a result, since Noguchi does not teach or disclose all of the elements set forth in independent claims 1 and 5, a prima facie case of unpatentability has not been established, and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of these claims are respectfully solicited.

Dependent Claims 2, 5-6, and 8

With respect to claims 2, 5-6, and 8, it is respectfully submitted that for at least the reason that claims 2, 5-6, and 8 depend from independent claims 1 and 5, respectively, which are allowable over Noguchi for at least the reasons provided above, and therefore contain each of the features as recited in independent claims 1 and 5, dependent claims 2, 5-6, and 8 are also allowable over Noguchi, and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of these claims are respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite

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prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 1, 2009

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